## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 8, 2001 LB 543

diverse opportunities in education. And some of opportunities come through our public systems, and some come through our private school systems, and in particular when you're talking about college. And this program, I don't want to overemphasize what it allows, but if you cumulate programs and assistance that are available to students, particularly poor students, federal loan programs and so forth and this program, I think in some cases it enables the poor students, the poorer students, students coming from poorer homes, to have choices would not otherwise have. they Now, is that unconstitutional? Is that bad policy? Do we not have enough dollars to do that? Those are certainly legitimate questions, and they're being raised by Senators Chambers and Wickersham. if you...if I look at it from a long-range perspective and look at what some of the things that are extremely good about this country are, and some of the opportunities that poorer students, students from poorer families have, part of that is because there have been established, not only at the state level but at the federal level, programs that take into consideration the cost of the institution that they're attending, and try to provide opportunities for many of those students that they would not otherwise have. And I, for one, am not willing to throw that out the window, and certainly not at this stage of this I think the bill needs to stay intact. I'm sure this subject will be debated another day, another time. But those are some of the thoughts I have and why I maybe would have voted for this program at its inception. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I too stand in opposition of pulling this back. I have to agree with Senator Bromm in providing opportunities. And just to give you a little...a few more facts, that almost 20 percent of all of our students attend private colleges and universities. We have more minority students attend our private colleges and universities than we do any of our state colleges. We have almost...in the 14 private colleges and universities, we have almost one-third of all of those that receive bachelor degrees in this state. So I think that speaks very well. We're talking about a very...actually, a very minute part of the